

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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ARMY  
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ANNIVERSARY

JULY 27  
11 a.m.  
JBSA-FSH  
Bowling  
Center

## Texas senator visits wounded warriors, families at WFSC

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
ARNORTH Public Affairs

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas attended a private Purple Heart ceremony as part of a visit to the Warrior and Family Support Center July 2.

The ceremony was for a Soldier wounded in Afghanistan during a dismounted patrol in June 2012. Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, hosted the ceremony.

After the ceremony, Hutchison toured the facility with Davis and WFSC program director Judith Markelz and met with wounded warriors and their families.

"It is always so moving to visit with Soldiers who have been wounded while fighting for their country – and with their families,"

See HUTCHISON, P9



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas (center) meets with Capt. Larkin O'Hern, a triple-amputee, and his wife, Rachael, during a July 2 visit to the Warrior and Family Support Center. O'Hern, who is working as a planner at U.S. Army North, told the senator about his desire to work in the Army Congressional Fellowship program.

## SAMMC Cancer Care Program expected to rank among nation's best

By Elaine Sanchez  
BAMC Public Affairs

San Antonio Military Medical Center's Cancer Care Program just wrapped up a re-accreditation survey, and already has received glowing remarks for its quality and level of care.

Initial results indicate the program should rank among the top cancer programs in the nation, according to SAMMC's chief of surgical

oncology.

The Commission on Cancer was "very pleased overall with our program and gave us many compliments," said Col. (Dr.) George Peoples. "The surveyor said our program should be easily accredited."

The Commission, managed by the American College of Surgeons, reviews cancer care programs to ensure they meet the criteria for accreditation.

Once accredited, surveyors return every three years to

ensure the program is meeting standards.

The survey includes reviewing clinical services; cancer care tumor boards that provide a forum for multi-discipline cancer treatment planning; quality improvement programs; tumor registry and database; research; and how the program is evaluating patient outcomes and improving care.

See SAMMC, P7

## GRANADEROS CEREMONY



Photo by Esther Garcia

Retired Navy Capt. Joel Escamilla, who serves as the Governor General, Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, leads members of the order's Color Guard in the presentation of the colors at the 28th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. For story and more photos, turn to page 12.

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# Defense Department releases do's, don'ts for military voters

By Katie E. Nelson  
Army News Service

With election season fast approaching, the Department of Defense published a set of guidelines June 19, for military personnel detailing what's allowed and what's restricted when participating in political activities.

The four-page DOD memorandum, signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter, opens with an urging to service members to vote and exercise their civic ability.

However, the document also cautions military personnel about how their public behavior could reflect positively or negatively on the military.

"Generally, all service members are prohibited from acting in any manner that gives rise to the

inference of approval or endorsement of candidates for political office by DOD or the U.S. military," the memo stated.

The document cites wearing a military uniform while taking part in political activism as an example of violating the rules because it implies military endorsement.

Also included in the list of prohibited activities is holding a leadership position in a political club; running for civil office; posting large signs on a privately owned vehicle; or officially representing the armed forces at a political event.

"All military personnel shall avoid any activity that may be contrary to the spirit or intent of the directive," the memo stated.



In addition to specifying which actions are considered unfavorable, there are also a number of guidelines explaining allowable behavior for military personnel. These include:

- Voting
- Giving personal political opinions unaffiliated with the military
- Becoming a member of a political club
- Posting a political bumper sticker on a privately owned vehicle
- Donating money to a political party

The memo further

explains that these are not all-inclusive rules, but are more of a broad set of parameters meant to illustrate acceptable and unacceptable actions. Exceptions and more in-depth regulations can be found in the hyperlinks attached to the document.

"The [record] does not constitute a complete listing of permissible or impermissible activities," according to the memo. "Reference to the specific language of DOD Directive 1344.10 [Guidance for Military Personnel] is appropriate in all instances."

The document also addresses more complicated matters regarding political activity, such as social media. According to Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections, a docu-

ment linked to the memo, service members may express their personal opinions via social media, as long as they do not tie those views to the DOD.

In addition, the memorandum outlines guidelines for federal employees concerning what the Hatch Act allows and doesn't when it comes to political activities.

The release of the document was intended to clarify the boundaries regarding political activity among military personnel, officials said. While it is not a comprehensive list, they said service members and employees are expected to abide by the standards and exercise judgment in making decisions.

The document can be viewed at <http://usarmy.vo.llnwd.net/e2/c/downloads/254327.pdf>.

## Common Access Card Replacement Notification

The Defense Manpower and Data Center recently began sending notices to military and civilian personnel to replace 64K and 72K Common Access Cards currently in their possession. The DMDC is contacting affected personnel via email with instructions to replace their CAC regardless of the card's expiration date. People who receive an email directing them to replace their CAC, or should they receive one in the future and they have not renewed their card within the last 60 days, need to follow the guidance in the email and schedule an appointment as soon as possible by logging onto <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. Appointments are available at all ID card facilities throughout Joint Base San Antonio.



## News Briefs

### **AETC enlisted calls planned for July 17, 18**

Air Education and Training Command holds an enlisted call with Chief Master Sgt. James Cody Tuesday in the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Base Theater July 17. The times are: 7:30-8:30 a.m. for grades E-4 and below, 10:30-11:30 a.m. for NCOs and noon to 1 p.m. for senior NCOs. Air Force enlisted members at Fort Sam Houston are asked to attend the enlisted call at Randolph. The AETC enlisted call for Lackland will be held at the Gateway Club July 18. The times are as follows: 9-10 a.m., for grades E-4 and below, 10:30-11:30 a.m. for NCOs and 2-3 p.m. for senior NCOs. For more information, call 652-3526

### **106th Signal Brigade Change of Command, AOR**

Col. Christopher S. Haigh will relinquish command of the 106th Signal Brigade to Col. Jay K. Chapman in a ceremony at 9 a.m. July 20 at the Big Area Tent, located at 3001 Marvin Woods St. There will also be an assumption of responsibility ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Schehl. For more information, call 295-5940.

### **5th Bde, Army Cadet Command Change of Command**

Col. Bridget M. Rourke will relinquish command of the 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command to Col. James E. Dodson at 11 a.m. July 20 at the AMEDD Museum, Building 1046, at the corner of Stanley Road and Harry Wurzbach. Ceremony will be conducted outside, reception to follow inside the museum.

### **Army Chaplains Corp 237th Anniversary**

The 502d Mission Support Group Installation Chaplain's Office celebrates the 237th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps at 11 a.m. July 27 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, 2521 Schofield Rd.

### **Saturday Vet Vaccine Clinic**

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic holds a Saturday vaccine clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 11 at Building 2635. Call 808-6105 for information.

### **Veterans Retraining Assistance Program**

The Department of Veteran Affairs is accepting applications for the Veterans

See NEWS, P4

# Fristoe takes command of 32nd Medical Brigade

By Esther Garcia  
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

Col. William LaChance relinquished command of the 32nd Medical Brigade to Col. Jonathan Fristoe in a change of command ceremony July 3 at MacArthur Field, while family, friends, military and community leaders, former commanders and Soldiers assigned to the 32nd Medical Brigade's three subordinate battalions looked on.

"For the past two years as the commander of the 32nd Medical Brigade, Col. Bill LaChance has been absolutely phenomenal," said Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and

the ceremony's reviewing officer.

"Clearly we have witnessed leadership at its best and we have benefited by Bill's extraordinary talents," the general added.

Volpe said under LaChance's leadership, the brigade trained more than 20,000 Soldier medics, and countless enlisted, noncommissioned officers and officer leaders, ensuring Army medicine remains at the tip of the spear in health care for decades to come.

"He established a professional and accountable command climate envied by most," Volpe said. "Bill is a Soldier's Soldier. His dedication and awesome performance of his responsibil-



Photo by Esther Garcia

(From left) Maj. Gen. Phil Volpe, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, presents the 32nd Medical Brigade colors to incoming commander Col. Jonathan Fristoe at a change of command ceremony at MacArthur Field July 3. To the right is outgoing commander Col. William LaChance.

ities led to building one of the most disciplined and highly performing units in Army Medicine."

LaChance will con-

tinue at the AMEDDC&S as the director of the Leader Training Center, Academy of Health Science.

"As I reflect, it is not turf or barracks improvements or training

See 32ND MB, P18

# Fort Sam Houston Independent School District's Siller wins superintendent of the year for Region 20

By Jayne Hatton  
FSHISD Associate Superintendent

Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, was named the Education Service Center, Region 20, Superintendent of the Year regional winner June 28.

Sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards, the program honors Texas administrators for achievement and excellence in public school administration.

"I am both humbled and honored by this recognition," Siller said. "Credit also must go to our dedicated staff, involved parents and community, and outstanding school board members



Courtesy photo

Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District.

who are committed to ensuring our students receive a quality education."

Candidates must be nominated by their local

board of trustees from any of the state's 1,034 school districts. Each of the 20 regions in Texas reviews nomination documents and submits one nominee to a state selection committee.

A series of interviews narrows the competition to five finalists with one selected as the Texas Superintendent of the Year with the announcement made at the Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas Association of School Boards joint annual conference on September 28, 2012.

"The Fort Sam Houston Board of Trustees was unanimous in its decision to nominate Dr. Siller for this prestigious award," said school

board president Deborah Seabron.

"She demonstrates strong leadership skills, is dedicated to improving the quality of education in our schools, and committed to involving parents and community partners in the education of students," Seabron added.

With a total of 35 years in education, with 30 of those in educational administration, Siller has served as the superintendent of Fort Sam Houston ISD for eight years, holding positions as associate superintendent, director of special programs and administrative assistant to the superintendent.

Active in the local community, the Corpus

Christi native has served on the board of directors for numerous national and statewide organizations and held many other education leadership positions.

She earned her bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin, her master's degree from Trinity University, and her doctorate from Texas A&M University.

"Dr. Siller is known for her strong, consistent leadership and moral character," stated Jeanne Warren, school board member. "She is compassionate to the needs of the children of military personnel while maintaining high standards for the students and staff."



## News Briefs

from P3

Retraining Assistance Program. To qualify, a veteran must be at least 35 but not more than 60 years old; be unemployed; have an other than dishonorable discharge; not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance); not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability; and not be enrolled in a Federal or state job training program. For more information, visit: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow/>. Veterans can apply at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.

### Fitness Assessments Begin

Personnel from the 502nd Force Support Squadron will be administering fitness assessments at the Fitness Center at the Medical Education and Training Center Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. for Air Force members on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

### New training support center to open

The Army Support Activity, Fort Sam Houston, will open a new training support center in October on Garden Road to replace the facility located in Building 4196. The new facility will house training aids to include, graphic training aids, simulators and modern classroom space for conducting hands-on training, as well as classroom-type instruction. For more information, call 221-1927.

### All-Day Appointments for CAC/ID Cards

The 502 Air Base Wing replaced the walk-in customer services at its main ID Card/CAC issuance facilities with an all-day appointment-only process for all military members, retirees, dependents, civil service employees and contractor customers. Appointment times are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, scheduled in 20-minute intervals. Changes to existing ID Card/CAC and DEERS services only affect the main DEERS ID Card/CAC issuance facilities at these locations: 502nd Force Support Squadron, Building 367, Fort Sam Houston, 221-0415. Customers can schedule appointments at any of these facilities by visiting <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/> or call to set up an appointment.

# Navy surgeon general views latest biomedical research at Navy's Alamo City laboratory

By Joe N. Wiggins  
Naval Medical Research  
Unit-San Antonio Public Affairs

The Navy's top doctor visited the Alamo City's newest biomedical research labs June 25 and left impressed with what he saw.

Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, recently visited the Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, receiving briefings and hands-on tours of many of the unit's latest developments.

These developments included new and ongoing projects in the core missions of directed energy, dental and combat casualty care biomedical research.

NAMRU-SA operates in two facilities, the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute building and the Tri-Services Research Laboratory. The admiral had the opportunity to visit both facilities.

While touring the labs, the admiral watched a

demonstration of new tourniquet testing using the HapMed Combat Medic Trainer being conducted by NAMRU-SA, and spoke with the researchers about their work.

The trainer simulates pulse and other bodily functions, and shows when circulation is controlled using a tourniquet. NAMRU-SA is the lead laboratory for the Tri-Service test and evaluation study "Joint Operational Evaluation of Field Tourniquets." The principle investigator on that study and several members of her team briefed the admiral.

"The testing we demonstrated for Adm. Nathan included evaluating the parameters of the tourniquet currently used in the field, along with other alternatives being considered," said Lt. Cmdr. Anne McKeague, head of the Expeditionary Medicine Division, Combat Casualty Care Department of NAMRU-SA.

"I can remember in the Boy Scouts being trained on the use of



(From left) Cmdr. Nora Perez, head of the Combat Casualty Care Research Department, Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, and Lt. Cdr. Anne McKeague, head of the Expeditionary Medicine Division, Combat Casualty Care Department, NAMRU-SA, brief Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, on tourniquet research being conducted at the unit using the HapMed Combat Medic Trainer. In the background are Judge E. Kelly, student intern, and Lincoln Miller.

improvised tourniquets," Nathan said. "Some time later, their use became sort of blasé in the medical community, but now they are critical in combat conditions. After my tour in Kandahar Providence Afghanistan, I know these devices are saving lives."

Combat casualty care is a very important issue to the surgeon general. In a tour last January of the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute at Camp Pendleton preparing Sailors to go forward, the surgeon general discussed the importance of this part of the Navy's medical mission.

"Care for the warfighter is why we exist," he said. "This is our top priority. Our combat casualty care capability represents a continuum of training from battlefield to bedside to rehabilitative care and

support."

During a discussion on the latest and ongoing dental and biomedical research projects, the admiral was very interested in how the research was conceived, as well as how it affects other areas of the medical mission.

When briefed on research dealing with targeting drug-resistant bacteria, the admiral had several questions for the research staff.

"I'm certain that biogenetics is the next big thing in medicine," Nathan said.

"Cracking this code in one area like dental and biomedical research will affect many other areas of medicine for the Navy and all warfighters."

"I was very impressed with his interest in our dental and biomedical research, as well as his depth of understanding of the im-

portance of what we are doing," said Dr. Nancy Millenbaugh, a research chemist in the Dental and Biomedical Research Department.

"He was interested in how we conceived our areas of research, the results we are seeing, as well as what we do here could affect other areas of military medicine."

"It was an honor to have Adm. Nathan see what we are doing, and hear his thoughts about our ongoing research and development efforts," said Capt Vincent DelInnocenti, commanding officer of Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio.

"His comments, questions and observations truly inspired our staff. He also gave us a clear picture of how our mission fits into the overall Navy Medicine picture and supports the warfighters in the field."



Photos by Joe N. Wiggins

Dr. Rene Alvarez (right) head of the Applied Laboratory Sciences Division, Department of Dental and Biomedical Research, NAMRU-SA, briefs Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, on research developing new ways to identify and classify specific types of infections.



## 470TH MI BRIGADE LEARNS ABOUT MOTORCYCLE SAFETY



**Photo by Sgt. Qaasim Jenkins**

Participants in a safety day exercise review initial reports of three actual motorcycle fatalities to determine how the accidents might have been avoided. The Soldiers, of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, suggested safety precautions the motorcyclists could have taken. First Lt. Samuel Mitchell (left) conducted the June 29 motorcycle awareness training, emphasizing the proper use of personal protective equipment.

## WARRIOR TRANSITION BATTALION PRACTICES MOTORCYCLE SAFETY



**Photo by 2nd Lt. Emily M. Marty**

Twenty members of the Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion took part in their first motorcycle safety day June 29. The first portion of the event consisted of inspections and several motorcycle safety briefings. The participants then rode for about two hours and met up for lunch in Adkins, Texas. Lt. Col. Brian D. Almquist, the battalion commander, also took part in the event with the wounded warriors. Battalion safety officer 2nd Lt. Emily M. Marty said she plans to make this a quarterly event.



## ARNORTH DCG KICKS OFF HOUSTON'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, welcomes the crowd of an estimated 100,000 to Houston's Freedom Over Texas July 4 at Eleanor Tinsley Park on Buffalo Bayou, one of the nation's largest land-based fireworks celebrations. Country music stars Billy Currington and Sara Evans headlined the event.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson



## SAMMC from P1

One of SAMMC's quality assessment programs was to determine outcomes for breast cancer diagnoses, treatment and outcomes compared to the national average.

According to Peoples, SAMMC breast cancer patients were diagnosed sooner, were more likely to receive multi-modality

therapy, and had better outcomes compared to the patients in the National Cancer Database.

Peoples said SAMMC's program likely excelled in all areas.

"It's very likely we'll be accredited with commendation," he said, meaning the program passed or exceeded most standards. Peoples said he's hoping the program exceeded the stan-

dards in all areas, a level of excellence only a handful of cancer programs achieve.

SAMMC will receive its final report soon, Peoples said. Commendations aside, accreditation alone is a milestone, he explained, since just under half of the nation's cancer care programs earn this designation.

Peoples said SAMMC's cancer program staff

goes the extra mile, not to earn praise, but to ensure they're delivering the "absolute best care to patients."

"The No. 1 health risk for our older population is cancer," he said, "and as a full cancer program, we have to be able to address that need and do it well, while always looking at how we can improve our cancer care."

## FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC OPENS AT WHASC



Photo by Airman 1st Class Courtney Moses

Senior Airman Joshua VanNess closes a storage bin during the Kelly Family Health Clinic move to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. The new clinic opened June 25 and is now called the Family Health Clinic. The entrance to the clinic is located on the first floor of the WHASC across from Internal Medicine. VanNess is a medical technician with the 59th Medical Wing.

# Two 717th MI Battalion Soldiers grab top grad honors

By Gregory Ripps  
470th MIB Public Affairs

Two 717th Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers led the way by garnering top academic honors in the Noncommissioned Officers Academy Warrior Leader Course.

Sgt. James Kirscht, a signals intelligence analyst/reporter, was the Distinguished Honor Graduate and Spc. Scott Bilich, a technical leader/signals intelligence analyst, was the Honor Graduate for WLC Class 09-12, a 26-day course that concluded in June.

"We have never had two Soldiers from the same battalion in the top four before," said Theresa Foster, executive assistant to the Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Fort Hood, Texas. "It was quite an honor."

But that wasn't all.

They both scored 99.6 per cent.

"Their scores were exact – another rarity," Foster continued. "In order to determine the winner, they had to do a face-off using the Best Warrior Exam [from the Best Warrior Competition on Fort Hood]. Kirscht practically aced it."

The WLC's objectives are to graduate students who are technically and tactically proficient, make sound decisions, plan correctly, follow the professional Army ethic, communicate effectively, teach and counsel, and apply Soldier-team development.

The 717th, a subordinate battalion of the 470th MI Brigade, selected Kirscht and Bilich to attend WLC because they had demonstrated potential for leadership as NCOs. Both have served in the Army for about



Sgt. James Kirscht, of the 717th Military Intelligence Battalion, receives the Army Achievement Medal from Command Sgt. Guिताud Leandre, of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during a ceremony at Fort Hood. Kirscht was Distinguished Honor Graduate of Warrior Leader Class 09-12.

three years.

Kirscht said he thought he did well in the course because other NCOs in the battalion who previously attended the course



Courtesy photos

Spc. Scott Bilich, of the 717th Military Intelligence Battalion, receives the Army Achievement Medal from Command Sgt. Guिताud Leandre, of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during a ceremony at Fort Hood. Bilich was Honor Graduate of Warrior Leader Class 09-12.

passed on their knowledge to him to enable him to succeed.

"The NCOs in my company made sure I was properly equipped

and trained to be the best Soldier I can be," said Kirscht, who joined the battalion two years ago. "The material from the online Structured Self Development course was a great means of preparing for the WLC," he added.

Bilich said his squad leader sat down with him and outlined what he should expect when he attended the course. In addition, he had completed the Junior Leader Development Course in August 2011.

"This helped me in the basic understanding of team building, leadership and Army writing style," said Bilich, who was assigned to the 717th in September 2010.

What did they take away from the WLC?

"The course gave me more confidence in my ability as a leader," Bilich said. "It gives you a chance to showcase how you feel an NCO should react and lead, from day-to-day in garrison or out in the field in a combat situation."

The biggest value of

attending the course to Kirscht was "being able to interact with all the various Military Occupational Specialties in the Army in a structured and educational environment." He explained, "This allowed me to gain insight into the rest of what makes the Army a working unit."

Both the Distinguished Honor Graduate and the Honor Graduate received the Army Achievement Medal, a certificate of achievement from the III Corps command sergeant major, a "Wooden Soldier" plaque with the Soldiers Creed inside, a WLC certificate, and a plaque from Pioneer Services (a finance company that serves the military).

In addition, the Distinguished Honor Graduate received an eagle plaque inscribed with his name.

I am humbled to receive this distinction," said Kirscht. "It gave me the chance both to lead from the front and to lead by example. I want to ensure my Soldiers are as prepared and ready for success [as I was]."



## HUTCHISON from P1

Hutchison said. "The work done at the Warrior and Family Support Center is tremendously important to our men and women in uniform.

"We owe our freedom to these brave warriors and in return they deserve the best care possible," the senator added. "They have put themselves in harm's way for all of us and we are grateful to them."

Through donations and the Returning Heroes Home Project, the WFSC moved from the 1,200-square-foot room in the Powless Guest House to the current 12,500-square-foot building in December 2008.

"I'm just amazed with everything that can be done with volunteer work and private donations," Hutchison said.

For service members at the facility, having a U.S. Senator visit showed the



Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, welcomes U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas to the Warrior and Family Support Center July 2 for a private Purple Heart ceremony. After the ceremony, Hutchison toured the WFSC with Davis and WFSC program director Judith Markelz and met the wounded warriors and their families.

government's commitment to wounded warriors and their families.

"We're used to people saying they care, but to have a senator take time to come see us really shows that they care," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Adkins, who was injured during an indirect fire attack in Ghazni

Province, Afghanistan, in December 2011.

The 15-year veteran of three combat tours, and Lubbock, Texas, native, had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the senator and to share his experiences as a member of the Texas National Guard.

Capt. Larkin O'Hern, a triple-amputee who works in the future operations cell at Army North, along with his wife, Rachael, spoke with the senator and shared their experiences.

"I told her I applied for an Army Congressional Fellowship, and she discussed her experiences with the fellowship program and her priorities as a senator representing a state with a large military population," said O'Hern, a native of Belton, Texas.

O'Hern was injured after an improvised-explosive device detonated while he was on a dismounted patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on New Year's Eve 2010.

The senator's visit was also positive in that it highlights there are still ongoing operations in Afghanistan and there are still Wounded Warriors



returning from combat, Markelz said.

"This war is not over; and when distinguished visitors like Sen. Hutchison take time to visit with wounded warriors, it reminds people that

they still need help," Markelz said.

"This visit reaffirms the commitment of the state of Texas and the community to support our wounded warriors and their families."

Warrior and Family Support Center program director Judith Markelz (right) shows U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison the tiled Purple Heart mosaic in the grounds of the center. Hutchison attended a private ceremony where the Purple Heart Medal was presented to a Soldier.

**Photos by Staff  
Sgt. Keith  
Anderson**

# HIRED! program offers teens experience

By Sophia Rossell  
Spring 2012 HIRED! apprentice

Stopping in a 502nd Force Support Squadron facility, patrons may be greeted by a bright blue, green, red, or orange-shirted teenager with a bold "HIRED!" stamped on their tee.

These intrepid young people are an integral part of one of the many great programs Fort Sam Houston offers military children.

The HIRED! Apprenticeship Program offers 15- to 18-year-old teens more than just a part-time job and some extra cash. It is a chance to go beyond the fast-food job and really experience what it's like to work in a professional setting.

The program gives apprentices a chance to explore one of Fam-

ily and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's actual places of work and see what goes on behind the scenes at facilities that they and their families regularly visit.

Georgiana Reefer, an apprentice who works the welcome desk at Warfighter & Family Readiness, enjoys working at a facility that supports service members.

Reefer plans to pursue a law career, confident that the people skills and the experience in helping others she has gained will be invaluable assets on the road to realizing her dreams.

Her supervisor, Cordelia Rodriguez says, "She's very good and caught on pretty quick."

Supervisors are very enthusiastic about their young apprentices.

"They are a great



Georgiana Reefer greets a Soldier at the Warfighter & Family Readiness front desk. Reefer is one of 83 HIRED! apprentices who are getting hands-on work experience at the many different MWR facilities and activities on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

help and learning fast," said Maritza Ortiz, an administrative assistant at Child, Youth & School Services said.

"Everyone is very kind," said 16-year-old Elisa Joyne. "There are a lot of customers and we are very busy."

Her fellow apprentices, 16-year-old Edwin Haffer and 15-year-old Andrew

Patterson were very curious about what their position would entail at first but now are settling in and appreciate working at a facility that is so important to the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston community.

"The HIRED! program is a lot of fun. I am

**See HIRED, P11**



Apprentice Kaila Norwood picks up marketing tips from Deyanira Romo Rossell, a publicist with the 502nd Force Support Squadron Marketing Department.



## HIRED from P10

learning a good work ethic and am experiencing different job opportunities,” said 17-year-old Mercedes Cortez as she dishes out cheese sticks, one of many duties she has at the Middle School and Teen Center.

“HIRED! is a way for teens to get a leg up in a competitive job market and prepare for life after high school,” said Kelly Albright, HIRED! program coordinator “The apprenticeship provides opportunities for teens to explore career paths and get real-world experience.”

Her commitment to HIRED! and its expansion, is underscored by the fact that this summer’s term is the largest yet, with 83 apprentices.

A HIRED! apprentice can come in many forms. Some shelve books, some answer phones, some file documents, some design flyers, some entertain children and some even brush horses.

But, no matter where they are or what they are doing, HIRED! apprentices are laying the foundation for a bright future. For more information on the HIRED! program, call 221-3386.



Seventeen-year-old Chris Page spends time in the pool helping with swim lessons at the Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center as part of being a HIRED! apprentice.



Photos by Sophia Rossell

Alex Ray (right) helps out Cpl. Spencer Yand, a soldier with the Warrior Transition Battalion. Ray is spending his summer at the Fort Sam Houston Fitness Center on the Medical Education Training Campus as a HIRED! apprentice.



## JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Camp Bullis see 36 selected for technical sergeant

Air Force officials recently selected 8,518 of 37,402 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant for a selection rate of 22.77 percent.

The entire list can be viewed at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/promotions/tech.asp>.

The following Airmen from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis have been selected for promotion to technical sergeant: Joel A. Alvior, Jason C. Anderson, Robert R. Ayala, Monique A. Cahill, Tifani M. Colo, Selena C. Converse, Sandra N. Elliott, Ricardo A. Empeno, Kurt Ryan Everest, Veronica D. Everest, Vanessa D. Flores, Kori Lynn Hillman, Marcus N. Hunter Jr., Adam C. Jandrew, Frederick Koeller, Remy A. Leguin, Candice G. Lesane, Jermaine A. Lockett, Leon J. Madrigal II, Terrence Marshall, Michael K. Mayes, Bruno E. Mosqueira, Alexander Pelante, Esteban Puga Jr., Adam K. Rivenbark, Catherine Serrano, Lonnie C. Simmons, Deonna S. Simon, Mayra C. Solis, Tanisa Sommerville, Patrick D. Stewart, Elvira R. Tuggle, Hugo Uribe Jr., Patricia N. Wagner, Crystal D. Williams and Charles A. Wolfe.

Congratulations to all the selectees.

# July 4 ceremony celebrates America's 236th birthday, Spain's contributions

By Esther Garcia  
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

A musket fire signaled the start of the war for American independence and a musket fire began the Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, hosted by the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez.

The July 4 ceremony celebrated the nation's 236th birthday and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution.

The Order of Granaderos de Galvez was founded in 1975 by Charles E. Barrera and Henry Guerra of San Antonio. The mission of the organization is to inform the public about Spain's substantial, although generally little known, contributions to the success of the American Revolution.

During the first two years of the American Revolution, Spain – though not at war with England – was sending covert assistance to the American colonists. Spain sent

clothing, muskets, ammunition, medicine and large sums of money to the Americans.

In 1779, Spain formally declared war on England, and two months later, General Bernardo de Galvez began a successful campaign against the British along the Gulf Coast.

Galvez captured all the British strongholds along the Mississippi River Valley. The following year he captured Fort Charlotte in Mobile and in 1781, Galvez captured Fort George at the Battle of Pensacola.

The ceremony at the cemetery included comments from the commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, as well as the unveiling of a patriotic stamp by San Antonio Postmaster Robert Carr, a roll call of the 13 colonies followed by volley fire by the Musket Detail and Fife & Drum Corps, all dressed in period uniform.

The Fife & Drum Corps per-

formed patriotic songs such as "Yankee Doodle," "Chester", and "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

Several civic, military, historical, and veterans organizations presented wreaths as a symbol of gratitude to the Soldiers who have given their lives from the American Revolution to today.

"I am just one Soldier, but I represent more than 2.2 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen today, as well as the millions of patriots that have served since the American Revolution," Vollmecke said.

"The dedication of our Soldiers demonstrated in the American Revolution is the same dedication our Soldiers demonstrate today around the world as we are in our eleventh year of combat operations to preserve freedom and democracy for this generation and for generations to come."

See GRANADEROS, P17



A member of the musket detail, dressed in period uniform, readies his weapon.

Photo by Jack Leyva



Photo by Esther Garcia

Robert Carr, Postmaster, San Antonio Office, and retired Navy Capt. Joe Escamilla, Governor General of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, unveil a 4-flag patriotic stamp. Carr said, "The quartet stamp with the words freedom, liberty, equality and justice symbolizes the ideals Americans hold dear."



Photo by Esther Garcia

Master of Ceremonies and Governor Joe Perez (right), of the Founding Chapter of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez presents a certificate of membership as an honorary Granadero to commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke in appreciation for his participation in the 28th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony celebrating the nation's 236th birthday and Spain's contribution to the American Revolution.



# Trombitas: 'Beyond the Horizon to have far-reaching impact'

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

Wrapping up a 90-day humanitarian and civic assistance mission here in Guatemala, the commander of U.S. Army South said the projects left behind represent hope and opportunity, and a closer partnership that will allow the United States and Guatemala to work together more effectively to address regional challenges.

Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, USARSO commanding general, joined Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina and Roberta Jacobson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for western hemispheric affairs, during closing ceremonies here yesterday for Beyond the Horizons 2012 that highlighted the contributions of the U.S. and Guatemalan forces and the deep bonds between their two nations.

During the mission, which kicked off in April and will conclude July 7, soldiers, sailors and airmen conducted engineering and medical missions in rural areas of central Guatemala.

Working with their Guate-

Soldiers salute during the playing of the national anthem during the closing ceremony of the Beyond the Horizon 2012 – Guatemala, an U.S. Army South exercise deploying military engineers and medical professionals to Guatemala for training, while providing services to rural communities. U.S. service members from the Army and Navy worked alongside Guatemalan army engineers to complete the clinic which will provide residents in remote areas healthcare access.

Photo by Master Sgt.  
Kevin Doheny



Photo by Sgt. Tamika Exom

U.S. Army and Navy engineers join Guatemalan citizens in preparation for the El Rancho medical clinic ribbon-cutting ceremony June 26 near Coban, Guatemala. Construction of the clinic was part of the Beyond the Horizon 2012 Guatemala, a U.S. Army South exercise deploying military engineers and medical professionals to Guatemala for training, while providing services to rural communities.

malan partners and medical personnel from Colombia and Canada, they built a school and two new medical clinics, renovated two other schools and a medical clinic, and provided medical and dental services to an estimated 25,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 10,000 animals.

"This is our southern flank.

It is our back door," Trombitas said.

He emphasized the significance of the Beyond the Horizons clinics and projects, all conducted in very poor areas of the country.

"This is an open demonstration that the government cares about them, that our countries are working together to better



Photo by Sgt. Tamika Exom

Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, commander of U.S. Army South, looks in on a Guatemalan girl receiving dental treatment during a dental readiness training exercise near Pocola, Guatemala, June 27.

their lives," he said.

Strong regional governments and militaries are able to work effectively with the United States and other neighboring nations in the event of a natural disaster, he said.

The ability to work together, he said, helps regional partners confront the threat of illegal trafficking through the region. "The narcotics threat is a very real threat," Trombitas said, noting that 80 percent of the drugs that flow into the United States pass through Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

"Anything we can do to bolster these governments in their fight against drugs helps us. So we work to strengthen the governments in Central and South America to help stop the flow of illegal persons, drugs and persons into our back door," the general said. "The more we

can do to strengthen these governments and militaries here, the more we do to protect our southern flank."

Every medical clinic and school built or renovated during Beyond the Horizons 2012 contributes to this effort by giving alternatives to poor residents in these regional countries, Trombitas said.

"Education gives an alternative to a 12-year-old who can either pack drugs on his back or learn how to read and write and have a better life," he said. "So as we improve the government's ability to give them better health, better learning, better opportunities, then we also help negate threats to our nation."

These initiatives promote the kind of multinational cooperation, which Trombitas called

# DOD Leaders: sequestration threatens military's successes

By Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

The nation's military has logged historic achievements in the past 12 months, but faces a future clouded by financial threat, said Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta June 29.

The secretary and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both spoke about the topic of sequestration during a briefing with Pentagon reporters.

Panetta summed up the department's main activities since he became Defense Secretary last summer, noting that the Iraq War has ended, a "responsible drawdown" of U.S. forces in Afghanistan has begun, and the NATO mission in Libya concluded alongside the fall of Moammar Gadhafi.

The department has also "maintained a relentless focus on al-Qaida," and put in place a new defense strategy and a budget request focused on the future force and rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East, the secretary said.

DOD has also maintained faith with troops by protecting pay and benefits, and has increased employment opportunities for veterans and spouses, he noted.

"We implemented the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Panetta said. "We've also opened up 14,000 military positions to women, and we've put in place enhanced measures to prevent sexual assault."

The biggest threat to all of those accomplishments and initiatives is sequestration, he said.

Sequestration is a mechanism built into the Budget Control Act that will trigger an additional half-trillion-dollar cut to defense spending over the next 10 years if Congress doesn't otherwise identify spending reductions the act requires.

Panetta said the uniformed men and women he's met in war zones, and the wounded warriors he's visited in military hospitals and rehabilitation centers, "deserve better than the threat of sequestration."

"Too often today, the nation's problems are held hostage to the unwillingness to find consensus and compromise," the secretary said.

"It is a time for our leaders and for every American to recognize that the blessings of freedom are not free," Panetta said.

"They come from a legacy of sacrifice, of courage and of leadership. That legacy is now our responsibility to fulfill, so that hopefully our children can enjoy a better life in the future."

Panetta said the defense industry leaders he has consulted with also face an uncertain future which could include widespread layoffs and lasting damage to the nation's military modernization programs.

"We are very much a team," he said. "... [Defense] companies, as well as the Defense Department, are making very clear to Capitol Hill that this is a matter that ought not to be postponed."

The department and the nation's defense industries seek assurance from Congress that sequestration won't happen and that "we can proceed

with the budget as we've outlined [it], as opposed to facing ... the possibility of another drastic defense cut," the secretary said.

Dempsey said his travels in recent weeks, as well as over the past year, have brought him into contact with a wide range of service members.

"At every stop ... I was struck by their tremendous sense of pride and commitment," the chairman said. He praised service members' courage, selflessness, intelligence, and dedication to the mission.

"They'll do anything to take care of this country," he said.

Dempsey said he was also struck by troops' concern over the budget.

"I find it encouraging, on the one hand, that our military family is informed and interested," he said.

"But it's unfortunate that it weighs so heavily on their minds. Frankly, they have enough to worry about."

The chairman noted, "We have to remember, too, that the force of the future -- that is, America's sons and daughters who may be out there contemplating a military career -- are also watching."

Dempsey said as Panetta has made clear, "We simply have to come together to prevent this across-the-board, unbalanced cut that could jeopardize our ability to deal with the very real and serious threats that we face."

The chairman said he and the service chiefs have no issue with military budgets facing scrutiny in the current challenging budget climate, or with the need to make tough program decisions.



# 59th Medical Wing welcomes new command chief

By Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

A new command chief for the Air Force's largest medical wing has taken the reigns as the top enlisted sergeant for the 59th Medical Wing.

Chief Master Sgt. Maurice James is the new command chief master sergeant. He is the second chief in the Air Force with a pharmacy background to assume the position as a wing command chief.

James will serve as the advisor to the 59th MDW commander and wing executive staff on matters concerning the morale, welfare, development, utilization and training of over 1,800 enlisted members at the 59 MDW.

Before assuming his current position, he served as the chief, Medical Enlisted Force, Office of the Command Surgeon Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

"In the medical community, pharmacy personnel haven't really

had the opportunity for these types of jobs due to it being a very small career field," James said. "I am totally excited and thrilled to have it and am certainly standing on the shoulder of some folks that have paved the way

When asked about his expectations for the enlisted force, the new command chief has a clear vision for each of the enlisted tiers.

"Airmen, I expect to learn hard, do their jobs and prepare to deploy because they are going to deploy. Non-commissioned officers, I will expect that and for you to listen, continue to learn and lead. For the senior NCOs, take care of your Airmen and your mission."

An acronym the chief uses to describe what he would like to instill and see in Airmen of the 59th MDW is "L.E.A.D."

"L stands for legacy," James said. "Always be focused because whether you know it or not, you are building your own legacy every day. E

means enjoy. Enjoy the journey. You must have balanced priorities. We will play hard but we also need to work hard and focus on the things that are important at the right times."

"A is for attitude. Have a good attitude," James added. "We get to choose what type of attitude we are going to have every single day and if we will choose to have a good attitude things will turn out a lot better for us and the people we are dealing with."

"D represents discipline. We have to have discipline. If we can discipline ourselves then others don't have to. If we can be disciplined to do the things that we know to do are right things will turn out well."

James' vision also includes improving professional development for the three enlisted tiers and he plans on holding enlisted calls to discuss this in further detail in the near future.

"Development is key. It has to be about professional development within the private organizations," he added.

"There are already really strong private organizations focused on professional development from enlisted performance report writing to time management and my plan is to join the established efforts in every tier and see where we can improve."

The legacy James hopes to leave behind is excellent customer service.

"The golden rule is treating others the way we want to be treated," he said.

"If we can, when dealing with customers and each other, treat others with kindness, dignity and respect. If I could get that one aspect embedded within the culture of this organization, I would see that as a success. We want our patients to say 'Wow, I get great care at the 59th MDW.'"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Bellamy

Command Chief Master Sgt. Maurice James speaks about his vision for the 59th Medical Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 15. James replaces former Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Robinson, who retired June 22.

James says he is "truly honored and humbled to be here."

"I am glad to call the

59th MDW home now, and I am looking forward to cranking the mission with our medic warriors."



Photo by Sgt. Tamika Exom

Citizens of Guatemala line the streets for the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new El Rancho medical clinic. Construction of the clinic was part of the Beyond the Horizon 2012-Guatemala, an U.S. Army South exercise deploying military engineers and medical professionals to Guatemala for training, while providing services to rural communities.

### BTH from P13

vital to dealing with regional challenges that cross national borders.

"Any solution we come to has to be a regional solution, and we have to all work together to negate the problems that we have with these porous boundaries," he said. "The more we work together, the more we ... are able to negate the threat through coordination, through talking to each other and through stopping the flow of illicit drugs, people and arms,

not only in one country, but in a regional approach where we are much more effective.

"And we can share that information between countries that assist us in stopping this illicit activity."

As U.S. service members wrap up Beyond the Horizons 2012, Trombitas said they'll take valuable training with them. Working here along with their Guatemalan, Colombian and Canadian military counterparts, they shared experience and ideas that will benefit future opera-

tions, he said.

The mission also gave U.S. troops training in working with different cultures and operating in austere conditions that require flexibility and innovation.

Trombitas noted that simple things can become complex, as during medical readiness training exercises here that required translators to translate Mayan dialects that many of the local people speak into Spanish, then into English.

"Those are the kinds of things that we simply



Photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Doheny

Guatemalan artillery soldiers salute during the playing of the national anthem during the closing ceremony of the Beyond the Horizon 2012-Guatemala, a U.S. Army South exercise deploying military engineers and medical professionals to Guatemala for training, while providing services to rural communities.

can't replicate in training in the States," he said, but that have a huge payoff in lessons learned.

"Small things like that make our soldiers more flexible and adaptable when it comes to larger problem sets," he said. "And that is part of what we gain by working in this region as well."

Trombitas said he's proud of the soldiers, airmen and sailors who made Beyond the Horizons such a success.

All the planned projects were completed ahead of schedule, a testament

not only to their skill, but also their "desire to do good things," he said. And when troops finished their assigned tasks, they came up with additional ones – building benches and playgrounds out of leftover materials and even reworking the water and sanitary systems at a medical clinic they built.

These projects, and the medical services delivered during Beyond the Horizons, he said, will leave a lasting legacy for Guatemalans who will remember the U.S. troops

who provide them.

"And that impression of the United States will be that [U.S. forces] are here to help," Trombitas said.

He emphasized the value of the relationships U.S. troops forged with their Guatemalan partners during the exercise.

"It's demonstrative of the professionalism of our soldiers, sailors and airmen, and their ability to make friends wherever they go in a manner that strengthens our relationship with nations that they serve in," Trombitas said.

### Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.







Photo by Esther Garcia

The Granaderos y Damas de Galvez Musket Detail, dressed in period uniform, fire a volley during a roll call of the first 13 colonies at the 28th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

## GRANADEROS from P12

Commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke keynote speaker for the 28th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery visits with veteran Darrell Harris, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Alamo Chapter.

Photo by Esther Garcia



Photo by Jack Leyva

Members of the Memorial Services Detachment also had part in the July 4 ceremony.

Organizations from throughout San Antonio presented wreaths to honor those who had given their lives in defense of the nation.

Photo by Esther Garcia



Photo by Esther Garcia

(From left) Incoming 32nd Medical Brigade commander Col. Jonathan Fristoe, outgoing commander Col. William LaChance and Maj. Gen. Phil Volpe, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School inspect the troops assembled on MacArthur Field at the change of command ceremony July 3. This technique of inspection, called "trooping the line," is a ceremonial gesture to allow the commander to view the Soldiers on parade.

## 32ND MB from P3

improvements that give me the greatest sense of pride of accomplishment," LaChance said. "It is the satisfaction knowing that what we do here matters. Yes, we educate and train, and, as advanced as our training may be, the skills imparted are perishable.

"The legacy of efforts is not in the training, it is in the profoundly positive impact that we have upon the young soldier that endures, and presents to me the greatest sense of accomplishment," LaChance added.

Prior to assuming command of the 32nd Medical Brigade, Fristoe served as the AMEDDC&S G-3.

"I expect nothing but great things to come," Fristoe said. "The 32nd Medical Brigade is a training brigade. We train medics and grow leaders. Graduates are our credentials.

"We are fully com-

mitted to maintaining a safe and secure training environment that fosters individual growth for anyone passing through this organization for the betterment of themselves and those they serve," Fristoe added.

"John, welcome, know that I have full trust and confidence in your abilities to lead the 32nd Medical Brigade and to continue the legacy of excellence from your predecessor," Volpe said in welcoming the new commander.

The 32nd Medical Brigade is comprised of three battalions, the 187th, the 264th and the 232nd Medical Battalions. The brigade's mission is to provide command and control, logistical and operational support to safely and effectively train and qualify technically and tactically skilled warrior medics and leaders who embody the warrior ethos and live the Army values.

# INSIDE THE GATE

## FRG/FRSA Forum

July 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

## Scream-Free Marriage

July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Red Cross, Building 2650, call 221-0349.

## Downtown Walking Tour

July 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1372 or 221-9698.

## Outdoor Movie

July 14, dusk, Dodd Field behind the Ed Parker Youth Center, the movie is "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island."

## Debt Liquidation

July 16, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

## Word Level 2

July 17, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

## HUGS Playgroup

July 17, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

## Key Caller Training

July 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

## Coupon Class

July 17, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

## Access Level 1

July 18, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

## AFTB Level 1

July 18 and 19, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Dodd Chapel, call 221-0918.

## Post Deployment Planning Training

July 18, 10-11:30 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

## Self Paced Initial First Term Financial Readiness

July 18, noon-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1612.

## Access Level 2

July 19, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

## Unit Trauma Training

July 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

## Safety Seat Clinic

July 19, 1-3 p.m., Fire Station, Building 3830, call 221-0349.

## Flea Market

Aug. 4, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., MacArthur Parade Field, call 221-5224.

## Swim Lessons

Registration is underway for summer swim lessons which run through Aug. 3. The cost is \$40/child per session. Lessons are scheduled from 9-9:45 a.m. or 10-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m. depending on age. Registration is available Monday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. at the Aquatic Center. Sessions are Monday-Friday for two weeks and include eight days of instruction, a certificate of participation, a swim lesson T-shirt and class picture.

## Fitness and Sports Athlete of the Year

Service members participating in intramural sports programs, monthly sporting events, varsity or extramural sports are eligible for nomination as the Athlete of the Year. Activities performed throughout the calendar year will be evaluated. An Athlete of the Year will be selected for each branch of service. Nomination packages are available at any of the Fort Sam Houston fitness centers or online at <http://fortsammmwr.com>. The deadline for submission is Nov. 30. Call 808-5710.

## Catfish by the Pound

The catfish pond on Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis is open Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., the cost is \$3/pound, call 295-7529.

## Sportsman Range

The sportsman range is open Saturdays and Sundays, 10

## Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of July 11

**CURRENT LEVEL \* = 645.1'**

\*determines JBSA water conservation stage

**Normal - above 660'**

**Stage I - 660'**

**Stage II - 650'**

**Stage III - 642'**

**Stage IV - 640.5'**

**Stage V - 637'**

For water restrictions, visit <http://www.502abw.af.mil>.



## Weekly Weather Watch

	Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17
San Antonio Texas	93° Scattered T-Storms	93° Isolated T-Storms	91° Isolated T-Storms	94° Partly Cloudy	96° Isolated T-Storms	96° Partly Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	95° Sunny	93° Sunny	91° Sunny	90° Sunny	91° Sunny	95° Sunny

(Source: The Weather Channel at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com))

a.m.-2 p.m. at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis. Participants are required to provide their own equipment for the range. Cost is \$5/DOD ID card holder. Call 295-7529.

## Air Force Education & Training Center

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, relocated to a temporary building at 2427 Hood St., call 221-2135.

## Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT score less than 110. Call 221-1738 to enroll.

## Sports Scores

For Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and 32nd Medical Brigade intramural sports results, visit <http://bit.ly/MWRsports>.

## Stilwell House

The Fort Sam Houston Stilwell House, a historic landmark since 1888, is open for tours, receptions and parties. The Stilwell House is managed by the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam House, Inc. a 501(C)(3) Corporation

not affiliated with the Department of Defense. Call 224-4030 or 655-0577.

## ROTC Green to Gold

The 5th Brigade Army ROTC will conduct a Green to Gold Program brief on the second Monday of each month excluding training and federal holidays. Briefings will be at 2 p.m. at the Education Center, Building 2248, Room 207C. Call 295-2006, 295-0429, 458-5607 or 436-3415.

## Cloverleaf Communicators Club

Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at San Antonio Credit Union, Stanley Road, in the conference room. Call 916-3406 or 221-8785 or visit <http://powertalkinternational.com/>.

## SMA Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets the last Thursday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Army Medical Department Museum. All Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales members are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-4424 or 837-9956.

## Lost Property

If you have lost any property on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2340. To claim items, you must have a form of photo identification and be able to identify the property.





### Retirement Planning Seminars

The Alamo Federal Executive Board is offering Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System planning seminars at the Education Services Center 20 (near Fort Sam Houston), 1314 Hines Avenue July 13 and 23. Sign up at <http://sanantoniofeb.org/>. Cost is \$10 and seating is limited. Call 565-1860.

### 'Walking the Tiger's Path'

A public reading and presentation by retired Staff Sgt. Paul Kendel, author of "Walking the Tiger's Path," will be held 10:30 a.m. July 15 at the San Antonio Shambhala Meditation Center, 1114 South St. Mary's St.

### Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Retired Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344 for more information.

### Warrant Officer Association Meeting

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 5:30 p.m. July 16 at the Longhorn Cafe, 1003 Rittiman Rd., at the corner

of Rittiman and Harry Wurzbach. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information, call 221-7327 or 475-2565.

### 'The President's Own' U.S. Marine Band performs

"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band from Washington, D.C. gives a free concert at 7:30 p.m. July 20 in the Lila Cockrell Theatre, 200 E. Market St., in the Convention Center Complex. The concert is open to the public.

### Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Rd. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

### Blue Star Museums Free for Military

Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,600 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel, including active Reserve and National Guard, and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2012. San Antonio attractions honoring this include The Alamo, Casa Navarro

State Historic Site, Institute of Texan Cultures, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio Museum of Art, Southwest School of Art and Villa Finale. Visit <http://arts.gov> for more details.

### Foster a Puppy

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months. Potential foster families need time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months, a stimulating and safe home environment and a desire to help raise a military working dog. Call 671-3686 for more information.

### Morgan's Wonderland Hours Changing

Morgan's Wonderland will open earlier on most days during the 2012 summer season. The theme park will open at 9 a.m. Saturdays through Aug. 25; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, through Aug. 17; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 26. The park is closed Mondays during July and August. Visit <http://www.MorgansWonderland.com>.

### Quarry Farmers and Ranchers Market

Every Sunday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Quarry Market adjacent to Whole Foods Market, 255 E. Basse Rd. Some vendors offer military discounts, live entertainment and kid's activities. Visit <http://quarryfarmersmarket.com> or call 722-5077.



**FOR SALE:** Crystal glass punch bowl set, five quart with 12 glasses and ladle, \$60; two large European pillows, Light

blue with white piping, 30 by 30 inches, \$25; Hummingbird crystal champagne glass set of four, \$30; full-size comforter, shams, and dust ruffle, blue floral/light floral reversible pattern, \$25. Call 495-2296.

**FOR SALE:** New Skillsaw, 15 inch, never opened, \$99; wood 3-by-5-foot bookshelf, \$35; shredder, excellent condition, \$25; coffee table with matching inner table, \$60;

love seat, \$65. Call 241-1291.

**FOR SALE:** New Rascal electric wheelchair, detachable legs, instruction manual included. \$700.00 cash or cashier's check. Call 201-661-3765.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Nissan Maxima, four doors, white, five speed, cold AC, loaded, great gas mileage, needs two repairs. \$2,400. Call 659-6741.

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